NEWSLETTER OF THE

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 38, Number 2 June 2014

Annual Meeting Sept. 19-21 at Beersheba Springs

Scenic Beersheba Springs is the location of this year's TNPS annual meeting September 19–21. Members will have accommodations at the Beersheba Springs Assembly and Hotel, an historic site with modern facilities.

Thirty-five places have been set aside for us, but act soon to reserve your place. Reservations must be in the hands of Lori Emons, annual meeting coordinator, by August 15 to meet the requirements of Beersheba Springs Hotel.

The format of this year's annual meeting will follow closely the form of past meetings, with programs on Friday and Saturday evenings after the meals, and at least one field trip on Saturday morning and afternoon. There should be plenty of time to interact with fellow members and guests. In fact, members are encouraged to bring friends who have an interest in wildflowers.

Phacelia fimbriata Photo by Bart Jones

While plans are still being made, it's anticipated that one of the programs will focus on the popular topic of trilliums. The other program may focus on the nearby ecologies of the Cumberland Plateau and the deep gulfs of Savage Gulf Natural Area.

State Botanist Todd Crabtree will lead the Saturday field trip to May Prairie in Coffee County and to the nearby Haggard Tract, which is being gradually incorporated into the May Prairie ecosystem. The whole subject of the history of this prairie ecology, as well as its present condition and viability into the future is especially interesting. Few are better than Todd Crabtree to discuss it, and he will be supported by Dennis Horn of Tullahoma, who has explored these areas for decades. (See separate article about this field trip.)

Also at this year's meeting, all TNPS offices will be open for nominations, as will the positions of three directors. In addition, the annual TNPS Conser-

Continued on back page

Enjoy a New View of May Prairie

Our field trip for the annual meeting in September will take us to May Prairie State Natural Area in Coffee County. Aerial photos from the 1940s show a larger prairie area than can be found there today but the Division of Natural Areas is working steadily to restore the site to its former glory. Management activities to control woody plant growth, along with controlled burns, have held back the encroachment of adjacent forest and even pushed some of the prairie plants into the woods. A recent burn was undertaken at a time when the conditions were just right to facilitate a fire that burned energetically but not to the point that it was uncontrollable.

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Register for Annual Meeting by August 15

TNPS Newsletter

June 2014 Vol. 38, No. 2

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally in February, June, August, and November.

The Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) was founded in 1978. Its purposes are to assist in the exchange of information and encourage fellowship among Tennessee's botanists, both amateur and professional; to promote public education about Tennessee flora and wild plants in general; to provide, through publication of a newsletter or journal, a formal means of documenting information on Tennessee flora and of informing the public about wild plants; and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities.

Dues for each calendar year are:
Regular: $20
Student: Complimentary
Institution: $50
Life: $250

Dues may be sent to:
Tennessee Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

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TNPS Website:
www.tnps.org/

A Letter from the President

Wow, where has the spring gone? It seems like I didn't have one. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend any of our spring hikes and I *really* missed seeing everyone and the wildflowers. I'm hoping to correct that at the Catoosa Savannah trip. From the reports I received from those of you who were able to go on our field trips, it sounded like this was a banner year for spring ephemerals, with several saying it was the best display of bloodroots, hepaticas, etc. they had seen in a long time. I hope most of you were able to get out and enjoy the bounty of beautiful Tennessee wildflowers.

As we quickly come upon summer, it is time to start planning for our annual membership meeting. This year we will go back to one of our all-time favorite annual meeting destinations, Beersheba Springs. It seems very appropriate for me, since this was the location when I was placed in nomination for the presidency and will be the site for the last meeting of my term. I think we all have special memories from Beersheba Springs and I trust this year's meeting will have more in store. We are still in the planning process, but I'm confident we will have interesting speakers lined up for Friday and Saturday evenings and Todd Crabtree will once again present a great field trip on Saturday. So go ahead and turn in your registrations and mark your calendars for September 19-21. As the date approaches we will provide meeting details, so check the website, Facebook page.

In this issue we have a wonderful essay from one of our members, Julia Walker, about exotic invasives, a subject with which we should all be concerned. I thank Julia for sharing her thoughts and observations and contributing to the newsletter. I encourage you to think about penning articles for the newsletter. There are a lot of you out there who are keen observers and have seen some interesting plants, communities, and habitats in your travels.

Many of you have been long time members and have a wealth of knowledge of our history. It would be interesting to read about some of that interspersed with amusing anecdotes about some of the colorful characters who have graced the society. If you've read a book about nature or plants that you really enjoyed, think about writing a short review to let the rest of our members know about it. This kind of insight is really helpful to point folks toward new books they might also enjoy.

If you attend a field trip, volunteer to write a report. I can guarantee the field trip leader will be thrilled for someone to take on this responsibility. It is always nice to have a perspective from someone who may never have visited a site before or seen a particular highlighted plant species. The enthusiasm and excitement is often translated into the article, making a more entertaining read for those of us who may not have been able to go. These are all excellent ways for you to get involved on a deeper level with TNPS, so consider doing something for the newsletter. You'll make Latham one happy fellow!

See you on the trail!

Bart

2014 TNPS Annual Meeting
September 19–21, 2014

Please complete and return by August 15

Registration fee per person $20.00 #_____ @ $20.00 _____
Room: Single or double per night $75.00 _____

Members who plan to share rooms are asked to share the cost between them.

Breakfast #_____ @ $ 8.50 _____
Lunch _____ @ $ 9.50 _____
Supper _____ @ $ 10.00 _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Special Needs:

Second Registrant (if sharing a room):

Name _____

Address _____

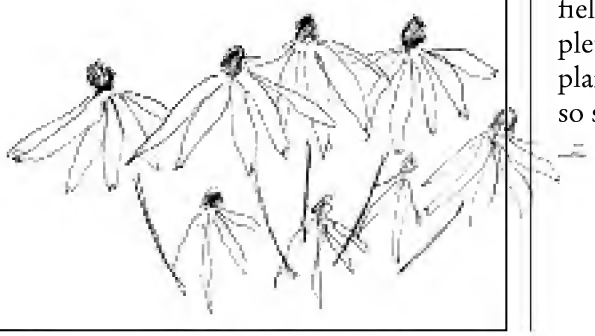
Telephone _____

Email _____

Special Needs:

_____

Mail check(s) payable to TNPS to:
Lorie Emens
9705 Kingsbridge Cove
Lakeland, TN 38002



Annual Meeting Field Trip to May Prairie

— Continued

After an event like that, the prairie really puts on a show when the flowers bloom in late summer. Bring at least one camera!

The charred remains of woody plants can persist after a burn and will make black marks on clothing as you brush past them. It will very likely be too hot to wear black so just be prepared for the black marks to appear.

An adjacent field that was converted to agriculture, the Haggard tract, is again being altered. This time it is returning to a more natural state. The ditches that were put in place to drain the field have been removed. Natural meanders that resemble the historical stream channels will slow the flow of water across the site. This will return the field to a wetter condition that favors some of the rare and interesting plants present on the adjacent prairie.

One of the first steps taken as the project began was to harvest bales of hay from May Prairie. These bales of hay were stored on site at the far end of the Haggard tract.

After the stream channel restoration is complete, the hay will be strewn onto the ground. Seeds of grasses and forbs contained in the hay from the prairie will, hopefully, find a suitable place to germinate, grow, and thrive on the Haggard tract.

If all goes well, someday, the old field that was there will be completely obscured by the same coastal plain plants that make May Prairie so spectacular.

Todd Crabtree

Exotic Invasives: What to Do? What to Do?

by Judy Walker

When I was a child growing up in Memphis, one highlight of the year was our family's annual trip to Bakerville to visit Mama's relatives. Bakerville, tucked between Buffalo River and the Tennessee, is a small village in Humphreys County, part of the Western Highland Rim. One morning when Mama, her uncle, and I lingered at the breakfast table, Uncle Robert commented that sometimes at night after he had gone to bed, he would hear vehicles passing by, sometimes as late as 10 or 10:30. "Now Frances Ruth," he stated with concern, "these are not Humphreys County people; they're not from here. Humphreys County people don't stay out that late."

In the years since that conversation people from various corners of the nation and the world have moved to Humphreys County, bringing many changes in the county, including people staying out late at night. We accept these people, but we never forget that "they are not from here."

Exotic people, exotic plants. Both groups tend to change the ecology of the space around them. Is this good or bad? As I, yet again, pull Japanese honeysuckle *(Lonicera japonioca)* off the fence, I think about exotic plants. Left alone that honeysuckle will overtake the meadows of my little farm, smothering all plants in its path, engulfing fences and buildings, killing my young pawpaw tree. True, honeysuckle does have a pleasant scent that attracts many pollinators, but it's a bully, intolerant of the natives. I pull it off the fence and the pawpaw tree, but I know that even if I were to eliminate from my property every vine, every root of the honeysuckle, it would soon return. It stands at the property line ready to storm my land, to climb through the fences, creep into my woods, swallow my trees, engulf my blueberry bushes.

Not all invasive plants are exotics. Some of the natives, such as sumac (*Rhus* spp.), broomsedge *(Andropogan virginicus)*, horseweed *(Conyza canadensis)*, Virginia creeper *(Parthenocissus quinquefolia)*, are bullies, too, just as determined as honeysuckle to take over the land. Dealing with invasives, exotics and natives, is a time-consuming, physically exhausting project. It is good that there are volunteers who devote time and strength to removing exotic invasives from parks, riparian biomes, wilderness areas. Some advocate using herbicides, but because I am concerned that the manufacture of these products is bad for the earth's environment, I do not use them.

My present practice is to ignore these invasives unless they are causing trouble for one of my horticulture projects. Whenever that happens, I pull them up. Also, before purchasing seeds or plants, I try to learn of their origin and behavior and refrain from buying plants that are a potential problem. I do grow some exotics, such as strawberries, in my vegetable garden.

Caring for the earth—its flora, fauna, water, air—is a sacred responsibility, one fraught with concerns, questions, and opinions. How to deal with exotics is one of the important questions of environmental care.

Judy Walker lives on seven acres of mostly woodland and meadows in Humphrey County between the Tennessee and Buffalo River. She has taught at every level from pre-kindergarden to college and currently tutors at the local high school.

Remaining 2014 TNPS Field Trips

- August 23, 10 a.m. Eastern Time: Flat Creek Trail, Great Smoky Mountains. Guides: Susan and Allen Sweetser, 865-938-7627 or ssretiree@yahoo.com.
- September 6, 10 a.m., Central: Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens. Guide: Todd Crabtree, 615-532-1378 or gizzardscout@comcast.net.
- September 13, 10 a.m. Eastern: Sweetser Ranch. Guides: Allen and Susan Sweetser, 865-938-7627.
- September 19-21: Annual Meeting.
- October 4, 10 a.m. Central: Ghost River State Natural Area. Guide: Bart Jones 901-485-2745 (cell) or bjones7777@hotmail.com.

Please Note: A more complete description of these field trips was published in the March issue of the newsletter and can be found at the TNPS website at www.tnps.org.

The website is also a treasure of other information about native plants and the society.

Renowned Botanist Elsie Quarterman Dies

Elsie Quarterman, emeritus professor of botany at Vanderbilt University and one of the first inductees into the TNPS Botanist Hall of Fame, died June 9 at age 103.

Widely known for her rediscovery of the endangered Tennessee coneflower in 1969—while driving with a graduate student through Rutherford County—Dr. Quarterman made many other contributions to her field not only with botanical research but by advocating the preservation of important ecosystems.

She was a leading champion for the protection of Savage Gulf in the Cumberland Plateau, traveling to the area with Governor Winfield Dunn, who subsequently helped establish Savage Gulf Natural Area and South Cumberland State Recreation Area. With a botanist's understanding of how ecosystems are maintained, Quarterman advocated forming natural areas that would encompass large buffers and watersheds, good advice that has not always been strictly followed.

Much of her research, however, was focused on the ecology of the Middle Tennessee cedar glades, characterized by shallow soil and limestone outcroppings, and drought- and heat-resistant plants. She influenced generations of botanists and ecologists, and with her students, was instrumental in encouraging new populations of Tennessee coneflower.

Her research and consulting work continued well after her formal retirement. In honor of her work, a cedar glades site near Percy Priest Lake was named for Quarterman. In 2008 an annual festival at Cedars of Lebanon was renamed the Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glades Wildflower Festival. That same year she was honored by this society with its first annual TNPS Conservation Award.

In one of the more significant photographs of Tennessee conservation history, Elsie Quarterman is shown inspecting one of the giant poplars of Savage Gulf, while Governor Winfield Dunn, left, and Kenny Dale of the National Park Service look on. In the wake of this trip, the state legislature, with Gov. Dunn's special encouragement, created Savage Gulf State Natural Area.

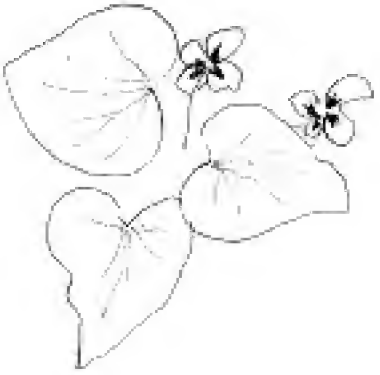
Mary Priestley visits with Elsie Quarterman in 2008 after presenting her with the first TNPS Conservation Award.

Landon McKinney, Former TNPS Member and Violet Expert, Dies

Landon McKinney, a nationally known expert on the genus *Viola* who wrote the description for the violets in the TNPS wildflower book, died June 5 in Ohio. He had been living in Westerville, Ohio, with his wife Lela and daughter Amanda.

Landon was a member of TNPS before moving to Kentucky many years ago, subsequently becoming active in the Kentucky Native Plant Society, which he served as president for two terms. For several years he worked for the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission.

According to Todd Crabtree, Landon had a particularly aggressive form of liver cancer, leading to his untimely death. He was 65.



TNPS FIELD TRIPS

Fiery Gizzard Trail, Grundy County
March 22, 2014

State Botanist and TNPS vice-president Todd Crabtree discusses a botanical discovery with TNPS members on a spring field trip.

Flowers were fairly scarce at the beginning of our hike as we traveled through the areas underlain by sandstone. Due to the high humidity near the stream in the upper reaches of the stream, rocks and trees are adorned with numerous mosses and liverworts. One flowering plant was very evident in the area. Red maple flowers were scattered on the ground and rocks. A recent period of high winds had knocked them off of the trees. From a distance, the flowers on the trees are visible only as red or orange haze. Observed individually through a hand lens they resemble clusters of delicate reddish bells.

We enjoyed the sights and sounds of the falls, rapids and riffles of the creek as we followed the trail downward. Eventually, we arrived at the juncture of sandstone and limestone strata and began to see the spring ephemerals that enjoy the richness of limestone-derived soils. At first only a few were seen but the sight of wildflowers in abundance wasn't far away. Trout lilies, hepatica and bloodroot were the stars of the show. Hepatica presented itself in shades of purple, blue, white and pink. The trout lilies were concentrated in patches of mottled green leaves with their yellow flowers trembling above. Bloodroot was scattered throughout the area and the flowers were perfectly white and unblemished. Our arrival coincided with the peak of flowering for several species. The tiny lemon yellow flowers of spicebush were out as well. Their color is a reminder of the fresh citrus scent of the leaves which would emerge much later. Buckeye trees were in the process of unfurling their leaves in an intricate coil of leaflet upon leaflet. After a restful stop for lunch beside a crescent-shaped cascade along the creek we climbed up the trail to Raven's Point. The view encompasses much of Fiery Gizzard cove and because the trees were still bare, we could see to the ground. Each hemlock tree along the stream below us was easily visible. As we made our way back to the trailhead in Grundy Forest, we marveled at the interesting fruits of Carolina allspice and a natural sandstone arch.

Todd Crabtree

Sanguinaria canadensis

Trout lilly
(Erythronium americanum)

Hepatica can present many variations on the spring landscape as shown in these photographs by Todd Crabtree taken in Fiery Gizzard Cove.

TNPS FIELD TRIPS

Rock Island State Park, Warren County
March 29, 2014

The rain was heavy on the drive from Tullahoma to Rock Island the morning of the hike. Twelve participants had registered for the hike. Six cancelled because of the weather. Participants included Margaret Hubbuch and Glenda Hood/Chattanooga, Bettina Ault/Memphis, Louise Gregory/Decatur Co., Darel Hess/Mt. Juliet, Alice Jensen/Shelbyville, and three others from Green Team Adventures (Nashville, Lebanon, and Murfreesboro).

We hiked the Downstream Trail on the White County side of the Caney Fork River. The rain tapered to a drizzle during the two hours we were on the trail. The trail passes Little Falls and at the Blue Hole (famous fishing spot) the trail makes a half mile loop and returns by the same route to the trailhead. TNPS had performed a plant inventory for this trail in 2012, a year when spring had come early. This year spring was later, although during this trip we found many of the same plants that were inventoried in 2012. Among the wildflowers observed this year were jack-in-the-pulpit *(Arisaema triphyllum)*,wild ginger *(Asarum canadense)*, spring beauty *(Claytonia virginica)*, three species of toothwort *(Dentaria)*, hepatica *(Hepatica acutiloba)*, little brown jug *(Hexastylis arifolia)*, Allegheny spurge *(Pachysandra procumbens)*,wild blue phlox *(Phlox divaricata)*, purple phacelia *(Phacelia bipinnatifida)*, early saxifrage *(Saxifraga virginiensis)*, rue anemone *(Thalictrum thalictroides)*, prairie trillium *(Trillium recurvatum)*, and sweet Betsy *(Trillium cuneatum)*.

The food is always refreshing at the Rock Island Market. After a late lunch several of us drove to the Badger Flat picnic area and hiked the short loop trail nearby. In the past this trail has had a wonderful display of spring flowers, but this year winter was still holding on, and about the only plant in flower was leatherwood *(Dirca palustris)*, a small shrub with tough limber branches and white tubular flowers.

Dennis Horn

Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Vesta State N.A.
April 5, 2014

The glades were pretty and the weather nice. But unfortunately, due to the recently cold weather, the glade flowers appeared to be two to three weeks late. About 12-15 people attended each of the morning and afternoon sessions with some individuals attending both sessions. The morning session consisted of a car caravan along Cedar Forest Road through part of the state forest west of the park. Walking was minimal and therefore the session was handicap accessible. We saw rose vervain *(Glandularia canadensis)*, cleft phlox *(Phlox bifida* ssp. *stellaria)*, glade violet *(Viola egglestonii)*, and cedar glade cress *(Leavenworthia stylosa)* in bloom. In the afternoon at the Vesta State Naural Area we added small glade cress *(Leavenworthia uniflora)*, rue anemone *(Thlictrum thalictroides)*, little sweet Betsy *(Trillium cuneatum)*, and hoary puccoon *(Lithospermum canescens)* to the plants we saw in bloom.

Cedar glade cress (Leavenworthia stylosa), which is found only in Tennessee's central basin, typically blooms from March to May. The flowers are about an inch wide and are white or yellow in color with a yellow center. The tips of the petals are notched. Yellow varieties are more common north of Nashville, while white varieties are more often south.

Darel Hess

Black Mountain/Windlass Cave
April 26, 2014

The weather was perfect. The group was enthusiastic. First we went to the overlook on the top of the mountain. Lovely Grassy Cove was stretched out below us. We descended from the cliff top using a crack in the rock face with steps. Very quickly we left the sandstone soils and started to see plants of limestone. We ate lunch at Windlass Cave, a fine place for eating but we didn't get there until a very hungry 2:30 EDT. Next we climbed back up a bit into acidic sandstone soils with lots of mountain laurel. We found a native azalea in bloom, pinkster-bush *(Rhododendren periclymeniodes)*. We ended at TN 68 where the Cumberland Trail continues up onto Brady Mountain. Some highlight plants were silverling *(Paronychia argyrocoma)* and both species of mandarin lily *(Prosartes maculata* and *lanuginosa)*.

Larry Pounds

This 1800s gazebo on the bluff at the Beersheba Springs Hotel still offers visitors a stunning view of the surrounding valley.

Members Are Urged to Register Soon for the Annual Meeting at Beersheba Springs —continued

vation Award will be announced, and it will be time for inductions into the Botanist Hall of Fame.

Beersheba Springs was the site of the 2007 annual meeting, and many members will remember the scenic overlooks and the short drive into the state park at the famous and easily-accessible Stone Door. In the valley 1,000 feet below the hotel, visitors can see the Collins Rivers which has spilled its watershed into Collins Gulf and then merged with the waters of Savage Gulf on one side and Big Creek Gulf on the other, amid slopes of wildflowers.

The open campus of the Beersheba Springs Assembly is situated at the center of the village of houses and summer cottages that date from the 1800s. This is also home to a small but active artist colony.

Time to Renew Your Membership in TNPS?

Try a quick and easy memberhip renewal online at www.tnps.org. If you do not use the internet, you may still send your check to: TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.

TNPS Newsletter
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